

THE CENTURY VOICE LAUNCHES VICTORY HARVEST CAMPAIGN

SEC. 562 P. L. & R.

Not Just Another
Paper—But A
Better Paper

The Century Voice

With Justice To All
And
Malice Toward None

VOLUME 1

NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE DOCTRINE OF UNIVERSAL DEMOCRACY
YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI, SEPTEMBER, 1942

NO. 2

CENTURY VOICE SWEEPS STATE T. J. HUDDLESTON IDOL OF GRAND LODGE

President Of The Delta National Bank Congratulates The Century Voice

Subscriptions and Endorsements Pour In From All Sections

We expected a favorable reception for Mississippi's newest race journal. We expected to receive some bouquets—yes, and a few brickbats. We had anticipated a large number of subscribers. But we had no dreams that the public's action would be so overwhelming.

We looked for mild favor; we got voluminous praise. We had prepared for a gentle shower of subscribers; we have been drenched by a deluge. We entered the field because we felt ourselves justified; we stand our ground because we have been made to feel welcome, wanted and needed.

MAKES NEW PURCHASES

During the month of August, two new purchases were made by the Century Burial Association: The Southern Mutual Aid Association of Clarksdale and Negro business of the Lee's Burial Association, making a total purchase growth of about \$1200.00. We only know what the Century is, but what it shall be doth not yet appear, because a leap over night may increase it by thousands.

The service rendered by the Century speaks for itself. No one goes out from the Century seeking other Burial Associations to buy—but when there is a burial business for sale, the sellers look up the Century, because they believe the Century is able and because they wish to put those contract holders who have followed them so faithfully, into the hand of a reliable burial association. This in itself is sales talk for the Century and proof of the confidence others have in this association.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE

A special corner will be given all agents who send over twenty-five (25) new subscriptions during a month. This corner will be on the first page and will be headed "Reserved For The Big 'I's'." There is no limit to the number and we hope to see at some time every agent's name appear in this space.

CLOSED ANNUAL SESSION

The Afro-American Sons & Daughters closed its 17th annual session here a few weeks ago. The meeting was well attended throughout the session. The Custodian, Mr. T. J. Huddleston, was at his best, making his opening address with such force and fervor that the Grand Lodge was captured anew in its fidelity, loyalty, and confidence in the man who has successfully stood at the helm of the old organization for seventeen years; who has braved the storms and tempests of what those years brought, carried the burdens on his back, even in the heat of the day, and the aches in his heart. The President's message was also good and very appropriate.

Due to the war situation some of the special features customary at the Grand Lodge were omitted, however, the program went over in grand style to the delight of all who attended.

RECEIVES B. S. DEGREE

In order to be more efficient in her field of work, Home Economics, Mrs. Henrene Wilburn has been studying for her degree in this field. She recently received the B. S. Degree in Home Economics from Alcorn A. & M. College, Alcorn, Mississippi.

EDITOR'S REQUEST

As Editor of the Century Voice, I am asking all agents to send in any news about their debts to be published, to:

Century Voice
Box 495
Yazoo City, Miss.

The following letters are typical of the scores of favorable expressions we have received:

T. J. Huddleston, Jr.
Editor and manager
The Century Voice
Yazoo City, Miss.
Dear Editor:

Your new publication "The Century Voice" has come to my desk and I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on it.

This publication, I am quite sure, will be received by the members of your race with a great deal of interest, and I am confident that it will play its part in the continual progress of the colored people throughout this section.

Your publication is attractively gotten up. Your news items concerning your people are interesting; the editorials are good; and the advertisements are displayed in a very neat and attractive manner.

"The Century Voice" should receive an enthusiastic reception from the people in our section.

Wishing you much success in your undertaking, I remain,

Very truly yours,
HERBERT HOLMES

TENANT BOYS DELIVER 8½ TONS SCRAP METAL C. J. Strong Directs Drive

Greenwood, Miss.—Several tenant boys of one section of the Bledsoe Plantation located a few miles north of Greenwood at Shellmound have won well-deserved praise for themselves and have performed a service for their country by salvaging and delivering eight and a half tons of scrap metal. The boys at the time of this writing had more iron on hand for future delivery.

C. J. Strong, Negro manager of the farm, directed the boys in their efforts and reported to representatives of The Century Voice that all families on the place are doing their share in buying war stamps and bonds and in aiding in the Nation's all-out effort for victory. Mr. Strong himself has been on the Bledsoe Plantation nearly twenty-five years and has worked from a day laborer up. He is proof that the better thinking landlords are willing to recognize and reward faithfulness and efficiency.

Tall, intelligent, recently married, and pleasant, Strong shows evidence of being a capable manager. His efforts to retrieve the much needed scrap metal show that he is also patriotic.

The iron foundries of the country are being faced with the possibility of closing down because of a shortage of scrap. Discarded plow shares, harrows, and hoes could help keep them running. No doubt other farms throughout the state could follow the example of these Greenwood boys and the victory over the Axis nations.

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Roosevelt said in his address a few nights ago, "We Are Not Doing Enough"—I wonder if we, the Negroes, feel individually responsible for this statement. We are responsible. If we have failed to carry the scrap rubber from our surroundings, the scrap iron, the scrap fat, and if we have selfishly bought a few articles we did not necessarily need rather than purchase bonds and stamps; then we have not done enough. He stressed stabilization of farm products, stating that failure to solve problems at home will make winning the war more difficult. Certainly we do not wish to add more difficulties when already the President has said this is the toughest war of all times. Those who heard Mr. Roosevelt, heard him say the nation must have more money, that in 1943 the war will cost One Hundred Billion Dollars, heard him say that in the nine months the United States has been in the war, three times the number of men that were sent in the last world war for the same time, have already been sent overseas, will surely begin now checking up the slack parts so we will have the consciousness we did not "fail" those fellows over there.

HARVEST FOR VICTORY

Cotton crops are good this year, and the price of cotton will be high. Jobs of all kinds are plentiful, and wages are generally higher. All of which means that almost everyone will have more money than formerly and thanks to the anti-inflation efforts of the Administration these additional dollars will suffer but little decrease in relative value.

During normal times, this increased ability to buy would soon make itself manifest in the purchasing of automobiles, homes, clothing and other necessities and luxuries. But today while the buying power of the average citizen is becoming greater, many of the commodities which he formerly bought are not now on the market; consequently, there will be more money and fewer things to buy.

One important item, however, is on the market. That item is the continued freedom of these United States. Every citizen now has the opportunity and the duty of making sure that the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall not be lost. Every additional dollar should represent another opportunity to invest in liberty.

We believe sincerely that the Negro farmers and farm laborers are willing and ready to do their part for America. We know that the traditional loyalty and patriotism of the Negro American is as keen today as ever.

Because of our conviction that good results will follow, we submit the following proposals:

1. That each planter who hires cotton picked by the hundred, make provisions to have war savings stamps on hand and suggest that each picker voluntarily accept a small per cent of his pay in stamps.

2. That each ginner and each cotton buyer make it a policy to suggest the buying of a war bond to each of his customers.

It is our belief that the plan will work and that the 1942 harvest will be truly a Victory Harvest.

A GOOD LEADER

Mr. C. E. Galloway took over the Masonic Lodge here in 1938 and since that time the Masons have been making steady progress. When Mr. Galloway assumed responsibility, there were only seventeen members but today the number has increased to one hundred and twenty-five members. He was responsible for the 1942 meeting coming to Yazoo City. Because of the faithful service he has rendered, he has been promoted to the Eighth District as Grand Lecturer.

FAITHFUL

Mrs. F. E. Tyler, Head of the County Baptist Convention and also one of the committee members of the State Baptist Convention, is a faithful loyal member of New Zion Baptist Church. Mrs. Tyler is one of those Christian workers who never grows tired and never shirks a task. The church, the county, and state conventions can always depend on her to push the program over.

IN THE BULLETIN

WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR:

- The Highest Reporting Agents For The Month
- DISTRICT MEETING DATES
- TOTAL NUMBER OF CENTURY DEATHS
- AGENT WHO WRITES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH
- AGENT WHO MAKES THE HIGHEST INCREASE IN REMITTANCE DURING THE MONTH
- LEADING DISTRICT MEETING REPORTS
- NEW SUBSCRIBERS
- MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Gets Vote of Confidence; Relates Struggles

The highlight of fraternal activities in Mississippi during the past month was the 17th Grand Lodge of the Afro-American Sons & Daughters held in Yazoo City, domicile of the organization's home office and modern hospital. Despite current limitations of travel facilities many hundreds of Afros came to the meeting to participate in the organization's business and to receive inspiration.

Their coming was not in vain, for from beginning to end the meeting was one of high interest. Several matters of great importance were debated upon the floor and in committees, the outcome of which insured the continued successful operation of the organization.

LEADERSHIP ENDORSED

T. J. Huddleston, founder and custodian of the Afro-American Sons & Daughters, was more dynamic than ever as he reported upon the progress and operation of his founding. The report was enthusiastically received by the delegation which accorded the custodian an overwhelming vote of confidence. The delegates expressed themselves as having full faith in Mr. Huddleston's leadership and heartily endorsed his proposal that a protective tax be levied upon policies of a certain class.

A review of the history of the Afros was eloquently given by the custodian. The audience was held practically spell-bound as the fraternal leader vividly told how his dream was translated into reality. When the idea of a hospital for Negroes of this section was first conceived by Mr. Huddleston, he had no financial means of putting it into effect. It was impossible to find backers. It was impossible to find willing helpers. So he shouldered the task alone.

Before the State of Mississippi would issue a charter for the proposed fraternal order, it required that the amount of one thousand dollars be deposited with it to safeguard the interest of policy holders. In order to meet this requirement after becoming duly bonded by the now defunct Citizens Bank and Trust Co. of Yazoo City, Mr. Huddleston set out to sell his idea to the Negro people of his own and neighboring communities. Up and down highways and by-ways, through woods and across fields, sometimes on horseback, occasionally in cars, more often on foot, went this man with a purpose, preaching the doctrine of hospitalization.

A noble idea was all he had to sell. He could not issue a policy. There was no hospital to point to. There was no assurance of insurance benefits in the event of death. For the money that each person paid he received only a bonded receipt and the word of honor and promise of an honest man working for a cause in which he believed.

Time has proved that this man's promise was sufficient. He was given a year in which to raise the thousand dollars and enroll a thousand members; he did both in less than three months. He had been branded an earnest fanatic; he proved to be a financial genius, a fraternal wizard, a benefactor of humanity. From his humble efforts the organization for which he struggled stands today as the South's strongest fraternal institution owned and operated by Negroes—an institution whose assets total nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

The Afros own a two-story office building, a \$50,000 hospital and other property. The organization provides employment for stenographers, clerks, accountants, printers, doctors, nurses, financial secretaries, field inspectors, counselors, and a host of underwriters and agents. The Afro-American Sons & Daughters financed the Mississippi Baptist Convention thereby saving Natchez College at a time when it seemed that lack of money would cause the historic institution to close its doors. The organization has also redeemed homes, saved farms, and built churches throughout the state.

Mr. Huddleston, who is affectionately called "Cousin Tom" by all Afros, was dramatic as he climaxed his remarks by pledging himself to lead the Afro-American Sons & Daughters to even higher goals.

The applause with which he was greeted was thunderous and sustained, indicating that all present were solidly behind the man whose sincerity, integrity, and labor had made a dream come true.